

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-06 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00  
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03  
SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15  
STR-04 CEA-01 /083 W

----- 099808 /12

R 220115Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7448

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 34274

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, EINV, ASEAN

SUBJ: U.S./ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS

REF: A) MANILA 19360, B) BRUSSELS 12293, C) BANGKOK 27181 (NOTAL)

1. RESERVATIONS WE EXPRESSED IN REF C CONCERNING THE PHILIPPINES BEING THE USG'S POINT OF CONTACT WITH ASEAN SEEM BORNE OUT BY THE RATHER DUSTY DIALOGUE REPORTED IN REF A. NEVERTHELESS, WE FEEL THAT IT IS INCUMBENT ON U.S. RESPOND TO THIS INITIATIVE IN THE MOST POSITIVE TERMS POSSIBLE, AND, THOUGH OUR MANILA INTERLOCUTRICE ADVISED US AGAINST APPROACHES OTHER THAN THROUGH THE DFA IN THE PHILIPPINES, WE BELIEVE THIS SHOULD NOT INHIBIT US FROM INFORMALLY LETTING HOST GOVERNMENT IN ASEAN CAPITALS KNOW THAT APPROACH HAS BEEN MADE AND WHAT OUR RESPONSE HAS BEEN.

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2. THE RESPONSE WE MADE TO THIS ASEAN OVERTURE OBVIOUSLY SHOULD BE AS POSITIVE AS POSSIBLE. THERE SEEMS A NATURAL TENDENCY ON THE PART OF THE FIVE-NATION MEMBERS TO GET TOGETHER. THOUGH THE ECONOMIC DETERMINISTIC IMPULSE TO UNION MAY NOT BE AS STRONG IN ASEAN AS IT IS IN THE EC, THERE ARE, NEVERTHELESS, CERTAIN STIRRINGS AND POSSIBILITIES WHICH COULD MAKE THIS GROUPING VIABLE.

3. AS TO THE SPECIFICS OF OUR RESPONSE TO MRS. MANALO,

WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD SUGGEST, IN ADDITION TO THE OBVIOUS  
TRADE AND INVESTMENT ITEMS, THE FOLLOWING TOPICS AS APPROPRIATE  
AREAS FOR U.S.-ASEAN COOPERATION:

A. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION COOPERATION. IN  
THE FIRST INSTANCE SUCH A PROGRAM COULD SUPPORT A REGIONAL  
AGRI-BUSINESS CAPABILITY. THE ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION AND SEATAC SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED  
TO ADDRESS INTRA-REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION LINKAGES  
TO ASSURE THE FREE FLOW OF COMMODITIES, PARTICULARLY FOODSTUFFS,  
BETWEEN SURPLUS/DEFICIT AREAS WITHIN ASEAN. THIS COULD INVOLVE  
ECONOMIES OF SCALE IN PLANNING REGIONAL AIR, SEA AND SURFACE  
TRANSPORT PRIORITIES AND NECESSARY SUPPORTING COMMUNICATIONS  
NETWORK TO ENABLE COUNTRIES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF COMMODITY  
AVAILABILITIES WITHIN THE MEMBER NATIONS, THUS ASSURING FLOWS  
IN RESPONSE TO NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DEMANDS. RELATED AREAS  
FOR COOPERATION ARE STANDARDIZATION OF REGIONAL NAVIGATIONAL  
AIDS, FREE ACCESS TO REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SEA LANES,  
AND EFFECTIVE PLANNING OF PORTS/HARBORS, AIR TERMINALS/CONTROL  
FACILITIES AND COMPLEMENTARY ROAD NETWORKS.

B. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM IN THE UTILIZATION OF SATELLITE  
IMAGERY FOR DEVELOPMENT. THE PRELIMINARY CONCEPT HAS ALREADY  
BEEN DEVELOPED BY AID/USGS FOR POSSIBLE LOCATION AT THE ASIAN  
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN BANGKOK OF AN RTG (READ ASEAN)  
GROUND RECEIVING STATION FOR LAND SATELLITE/SOUTHEAST ASIAN  
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SATELLITE. TECHNOLOGY FOR THE APPLICATION OF IMAGERY  
READOUT FOR MULTI-SECTORAL DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES THROUGHOUT THE  
REGION HAS ALREADY BEEN DEVELOPED BY AIT, USING IBM-FURNISHED  
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. A COOPERATIVE EFFORT COULD EASILY RESULT  
IN THE BROADENING OF COVERAGE TO INCLUDE ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES.

C. REGIONAL POPULATION/FAMILY PLANNING (P/FP). ASEAN/  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (IGCC), AN EXISTING  
REGIONAL AGENCY, HAS JUST COMPLETED A JOINT SEMINAR ON THE  
INTERRELATION OF P/FP AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT. ANOTHER  
POSSIBILITY WOULD BE REGIONAL INITIATIVE IN THE PRODUCTION  
OF P/FP COMMODITIES (E.G. PILL CYCLES). THIS MIGHT RESULT  
IN LOWERING THE COSTS OF THE EXPANDING P/FP PROGRAMS IN ALL  
ASEAN COUNTRIES. INCREASED ATTENTION COULD ALSO BE PAID TO  
THE SHARING OF NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THIS EFFORT BETWEEN ASEAN  
COUNTRIES E.G., SINGAPORE, AND RESULTS OF NATIONAL EFFORTS IN  
AREAS SUCH AS CENSUS, VITAL STATISTICS AND USER RECEPTIVITY.

D. R&D ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF  
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES. EVEN THOUGH SOME MEMBER COUNTRIES  
OF ASEAN HAVE FOSSIL FUEL RESOURCES, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL  
DEMANDS FOR MORE ENERGY WILL OBVIOUSLY ACCELERATE. U.S. COULD  
FURNISH TECHNOLOGY AND ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELDS OF  
SOLAR ENERGY, GEO-THERMAL DEPOSITS (BOTH ON AND OFF-SHORE),

AND HYDRO-POWER, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY DEVELOPED IN REGION.  
A REGIONAL, SHARED APPROACH OF THIS SORT SHOULD MINIMIZE COST  
AND AVOID DUPLICATION.

4. WOULD HOPE THAT FOREGOING IS HELPFUL IN RESPONSE TO  
MANILA'S REQUEST FOR VIEWS. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT ASEAN  
HAS DISTINCT POSSIBILITIES AND ANYTHING THAT USG CAN DO TO  
ASSIST IT THROUGH ITS FORMATIVE PERIOD WILL REDOUND TO OUR  
BENEFIT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 16 SEP 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC COOPERATION, POLICIES, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BANGKO34274  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D760469-0173  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761293/baaaerrw.tel  
**Line Count:** 121  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** U.S./ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS  
**TAGS:** EGEN, ETRD, EINV, US, ASEAN  
**To:** MANILA INFO STATE  
JAKARTA  
KUALA LUMPUR  
SINGAPORE  
TOKYO  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006